

TH239 Dance Lab: Approaches and Practice

Seminar Leader: Eva Burghardt

Course Times: Fri 14:00-17:15

Email: e.burghardt@berlin.bard.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to contemporary dance and improvisation technique as well as providing space to explore theories and techniques of body-based performance work in a broader sense. In the first half of the semester we will focus on movement and dance-based training, drawing from contemporary dance techniques and bodyworks, such as Release Technique and Body Mind Centering. Using gravity while moving into and out of the floor, finding inner and outer connections through the body and into the space will be explored. Adding to this foundational work, students will be introduced to dance improvisation and instant composition technique. While playing with different imageries and movement qualities, they will expand and develop their movement vocabulary. Rather than prescribing a specific aesthetic, the aim is to give a framework for individual exploration and expression. Listening to oneself as well as to the others will be an essential part. The second half of the semester will shift the focus to compositional and choreographic aspects of dance. Creating solo as well as group sketches, different layers of composition such as use of space, timing, rhythm and dramaturgy will be explored. A final presentation of the resulting work, containing both improvised and set material, will be shown at the end of the semester. Throughout, the students will learn to analyze various aspects of dance and performance. An introduction to dance history, as well as excursions to dance performances in Berlin, including discussions and a written reflection afterwards, will be an integral part of the course.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of the semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.

- Remove all artworks, art materials, and / or any personal belongings before end of semester inspection of spaces (including any storage offered). Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. Please note: donating unrequested artworks and / or art materials is not permitted and will still be considered student property. expected to be removed by your inspection deadline. Please contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park for more information: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

- Attendance of all classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on class participation, discussions, individual preparation and rehearsal time, one mid-term essay (ca. 1000 words) and a final presentation.

Please note: While the mid-term essay will be written individually, the final presentation will partly be done collaboratively.

Deadline for Mid-term Essay: Oct 26, Final Presentation: Dec 02, 18h

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, performances, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

- Class participation (includes attendance, active participation in praxis and theory, individual preparation and rehearsal time, Communication habits with Professor and among other students as well as maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal): (60%)

- Mid-term essay (15%)

- Final presentation (25%)

Schedule

Fall 2018 classes start on Monday, September 3 and run until Friday, December 21 with Fall Break planned from Monday, October 29 – Sunday, November 4. Completion week is from December 17 - 21. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/fall-2018>

WEEK 1

Sept 07

Friday 14:00-17:15

Introduction. What is dance? Approaches and Practice

Movement Training and Improvisation

Film: Anna Halprin, Breath Made Visible

WEEK 2

Sept 14

Friday 14:00-17:15

Movement Training and Improvisation.

Theory: Dance history. Part I

Mandatory factory orientation, please bring laptops

WEEK 3

Sept 21

Friday 14:00-17:15

Movement Training and Improvisation.

Theory: Dance history. Part II

WEEK 4

Sept 28

Friday 14:00-17:15

Movement Training and Improvisation.

Theory: Dance Critiques: how to write about dance? Preparation for off-site visits

WEEK 5

Oct 5

Friday 14:00-17:15

TOOLS FOR IMPROVISATION

Movement Training and Improvisation. Time-Space-Effort

WEEK 6

Oct 12

Friday 14:00-17:15

TOOLS FOR IMPROVISATION

Movement Training and Improvisation. Body as container. Working with images.

WEEK 7

Oct 19

Friday 14:00-17:15

TOOLS FOR COMPOSING

Movement Training and Improvisation.
Research and development of Final Project

WEEK 8

Oct 26

Friday 14:00-17:15

TOOLS FOR COMPOSING

Movement Training and Improvisation.
Research and development of Final Project

Deadline for Mid-term Essay

WEEK 9

Nov 02

holiday

WEEK 10

Nov 09

No class (off-site visit instead)

WEEK 11

Nov 16

Friday 14:00-17:15

TOOLS FOR COMPOSING

Movement Training and Improvisation.
Solo and/or Group Rehearsals of Final Presentation

WEEK 12

Nov 23

No class (off-site visit instead)

EXTRA REHEARSAL:

Sunday, Nov 25 14-17:15

Solo and/or Group Rehearsals of Final Presentation

WEEK 13

Nov 30

Friday 14:00-18:00

Movement Training and Improvisation.

Solo and/or Group Rehearsals of Final Presentation

EXTRA REHEARSALS:

Dec 01

Saturday 3:30-6:45

Solo and/or Group Rehearsals of Final Presentation

Dec 02

Sunday 15:00-17:00

Solo and/or Group Rehearsals of Final Presentation

Final Presentation 18h

WEEK 14

Dec 07

Friday 14:00-15:30

Cool-down, Bodywork

Evaluation and Critique

WEEK 15

Dec 14

No class

WEEK 16

Dez 21

Completion Week

NOTE: there will be two off-site visits á 2-3 hours in Sept.-Nov. (dates to be announced)

Facility Guidelines:

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

- 1) The BCB “Factory” (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Students agree to only use the common spaces in the building that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-

limits.. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studio Arts.

- 2) Chip access to The Factory building and other arts facilities is limited to those students currently registered for classes needing those facilities. Orientations are required before access is granted. In addition, students and faculty involved in clubs as well as event hosting may receive chip access and permission to use The Factory after orientations have been arranged through the Studio Arts Manager.
- 3) No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the building. There are to be no projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) inside any part of the building.
- 4) Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 5) No spray-painting inside of the building. This also includes any strong, odorous materials (with or without spray). All production involving odorous material is to be done outside of the building.
- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must be properly protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) No oil painting is allowed on the property unless student is enrolled in a BCB painting course, or approved in advance by the Studio Arts Manager
- 8) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately.. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 9) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 10) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 11) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside or around the workshop areas, which includes walking through the workshop. This includes dance and theater students as well.
- 12) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. Protective gear can be found in the Factory workshop.
- 13) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask Studio Arts Manager for assistance (by appointment).
- 14) Students must make sure all lights are turned off and doors are closed when leaving the building. No windows or doors are to be left opened or cracked. All electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
- 15) Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution.
- 16) All Workshop items checked out are due back during the Workshop hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with Studio Arts Manager. Workshop hours are: Mon-Friday, 1-3 pm. Details will be offered during orientation.
- 17) Any items leaving the building without permission will be considered stolen, and access to the factory may be suspended for the rest of the semester. If an item must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, contact The Arts Staff, and be prepared to leave your Student ID as a deposit. Fines may be charged for late return.
- 18) All students must respect signage posted in the factory that may involve rules that are not mentioned in this document. This includes signage indicating reserved spaces where communal use is restricted.
- 19) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with the Studio Arts Manager. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with Studio Arts Manager beforehand.
- 20) During completion week, any space used by a student must be returned empty with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be bagged (or boxed) and properly disposed of. All students must accept the penalty of grades being affected and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.

21) Contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

AV Facilities – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 1) BCB's AV (Audio / Visual) facilities provide a limited quantity of AV equipment to support Admin, Faculty as well as those students enrolled in arts classes that require specific items. AV facilities do not include any black and white or color printing services for students.
- 2) The opening times may change every semester to adapt to specific course times. Once these times are established they will stay consistent throughout the semester, with possible exceptions. AV facilities are ONLY available during days when classes are held (closed during official BCB holidays).
- 3) All items checked out are due back during AV hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with AV Staff.
- 4) Items to be reserved on a specific date should be requested at least one week in advance. Without reservation, availability is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 5) The AV Staff may exclude students from borrowing items at any time, if the student:
 - failed to return items in time
 - failed to return items in person (pick up and/or return by friends is not allowed)
 - returned items with missing pieces
 - returned items damaged or in poor shape
- 6) AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON. No exceptions.
- 7) All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 8) Any item returned without accessories (such as cables, SD card, batteries, tripod head, lens cap, etc) will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day (the same as late returns).
- 9) Any items missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV Staff). Any items damaged or malfunctioning are expected to be reported to Staff upon check-in.
- 10) Please use the AV email to inquire about equipment or policy, as well as to reserve (av@berlin.bard.edu). Do not contact AV Staff through their personal emails.
- 11) We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
- 12) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 13) Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu

MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.